FINANCIAL LANDSCAPING

We are rapidly approaching the time of year when everyone digs in their pockets just a little deeper to make the season brighter. Well, a little financial landscaping before then is also wise to help you get through the season and beyond. Challenge yourself to an honest budget review. Once you take note of where your money has been going, you can start cultivating your cash flow in the right direction. Try this simple exercise to reveal where you can stand to cut back on your spending.

<u>STEP 1</u>: Make or print a copy of your monthly bank statement that you can markup freely.

STEP 2: Highlight each debit by spending category* then add up your amounts in each category.

 YELLOW = Food
 PINK = Household Purchases
 BLUE= Entertainment & Luxury
 GREEN= Recurring Bills
 GREY= Auto Expenses

(*You may find some of your categories overlap. Pick the most appropriate for the purchase.)

STEP 3: Analyze your findings and target your wasteful patterns. Where have you been overspending? Any surprises? Start slashing those unnecessary expenses and reclaim some cash!

